

ALONE 'BEING' photographic exhibition

Exhibition of images of older people by award-winning photographer Jason Clarke takes place at Powerscourt Townhouse Centre, Dublin, from May 13 – 19

The ALONE 'BEING' photographic exhibition is a touching, captivating and insightful series of portraits of older people who use the services of ALONE. These stunning portraits, taken by award winning photographer Jason Clarke, celebrate older people and express a variety of emotions. Each portrait depicts the personality of the individual and their story, forming part of a truly emotive and powerful exhibition. This exhibition, open free to the public, is hosted by Powerscourt Townhouse Centre on the mezzanine floor from Monday May 13th to Sunday May 19th. The exhibition was officially launched today by Brendan Courtney, broadcaster and supporter of ALONE.

The portraits were taken by photographer Jason Clarke over a three month period in a variety of locations around the country and showcase the numerous and varied services offered by ALONE, and the variety of individuals seeking the support of the charity. Some of the images portray mischief, friendship or contentment, while others illustrate isolation or loneliness. Jason Clarke is a winner of a PPAI award for portraiture and brought his expertise to this project by spending time with the individuals and learning their stories before photographing them.

Seán Moynihan, CEO of ALONE commented, "This exhibition has been an emotional and enriching experience for our service users, staff and volunteers. To have such a powerful document to celebrate older people, and particularly the older people we work with, really helps us to get our message across: old age isn't a problem, but homelessness, loneliness and poverty are. These beautiful and thought-provoking images, taken for us by our partner in this project Jason Clarke, really demonstrate the breadth of our services and the people with whom we work. We sincerely thank Jason Clarke for his commitment to the project and donation of his time, and of course we also thank the Powerscourt Townhouse Centre who are kindly hosting the exhibition for the week."

Jason Clarke commented, "It has been a genuine pleasure to be involved with such an important charity as ALONE on this project. My real aim was to empower the older people who use ALONE's services and to give them a face. I think it's always important to remember that there are individuals who are receiving support from charities such as ALONE, and I wanted to highlight this and try to tell their stories visually. It is my hope that the exhibition will attract attention and raise awareness of the amazing work being done by ALONE."

While there is no entrance fee to the exhibition, there will be an opportunity for visitors to donate to the charity, should they wish, to help them continue their vital work with older people in need of support in the community.

ALONE is an independent charity that works with the 1 in 10 older people who are at risk of homelessness, socially isolated, vulnerable or in crisis. They provide supportive housing,

befriending, and community response services to over 300 older people on a weekly basis. As an independent charity ALONE receives no government funding and relies solely on the generosity of companies and the general public to continue their work. This independence allows the charity the freedom to campaign for real change and to highlight failures in respect of the rights of older people who they engage with.

All of ALONE's services are non-denominational and confidential, and are delivered 365 days a year. The charity operates with a ratio of 1 staff member to every 15 volunteers.

BEING

Photography Exhibition, Free entry to the public

Powerscourt Townhouse, South William Street, Dublin 2, Mezzanine Floor

Monday 13th May – Sunday 19th May